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DISASTER & EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

I wasn't in this profession in the 1960's, which was the last time, I'm told, that Civil Defense had this much attention from the President, Congress, and the news media. And this is good, even if the proposed programs of President Reagan in his enhanced Civil Defense program never becomes a complete reality. It has created citizen interest and concern and we all are bound to become better off if we believe in preparedness. This Civil Defense awareness has brought forth many groups of very diverse opinions. On one end of the spectrum are those who believe that a nuclear exchange will bring the complete end to civilization and that to even plan for protection of those who may survive is making the United States more vulnerable to a nuclear attack. There are those on the other end who believe they will survive if they relocate to areas which are presumed to be non-targeted areas and if they take proper precautions ahead of time (now). All citizens who believe the only sure way of NUCLEAR survival is DISARMAMENT, (they may disagree on the procedures to accomplish this disarmament) and don't know if any people can survive and what they can do to better those chances of survival.

So now is the time, while we have the attention, to be upfront with our constituents and advise them of the horrors of a nuclear exchange, the effects of nuclear weapons as we know them, and what can be done to minimize those effects if we are in an area where we may have that chance; to become knowledgeable of our nuclear protection plans, both in-place shelters (public and home) and the option of crisis relocation planning. We must be completely open and not build in any false sense of security. It is our mandate, both legally and morally, to protect the lives of our people; and until such a time that complete nuclear disarmament becomes a reality, we must meet this challenge and do whatever planning we can to protect our populace.

Just another thought, you all will be well into your budget process by the next newsletter; and it appears to us that our support materials program (commo and warning systems on a matchable basis) and the Emergency Operating Center Program will both be significantly increased. In fact, we will have an allocation in both programs during this fiscal year. So plan ahead and stay in touch.

A L Gilbertson

NEW COORDINATORS

BIG HORN COUNTY:

Craig Taft is a part-time DES Coordinator and part-time County Sanitarian effective November 1, 1981. He was born and raised in Shelby, Montana, and attended M.S.U. receiving a B.S. degree in Microbiology with an Environmental Health Option. He went to work full time for the Big Horn County Health Department after college. Craig and his wife, Carla (from Hollendale, Minnesota), have lived in Hardin for 3¼ years. Carla is office nurse for two local doctors. Craig enjoys tennis, basketball, and water and snow skiing.

ROSEBUD COUNTY:

Steve Dewell was born in Florida, moving to Montana at age 13 with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Norm Dewell (Carbon County DES Coordinator). Steve graduated from Joliet High School in 1976. He worked two years for Billings West End Ambulance Service and Deaconess Hospital's Mobile Intensive Care Unit before going to Ellensburg, Washington, to attend Paramedic School. While in school he worked for Yakima Ambulance. After graduation, Steve worked two years as a paramedic in Portland for Care Ambulance Service. He then moved to Butte and and worked as Training Coordinator for E.M.S., Region 1B. He became full-time DES Coordinator for Rosebud County on January 11, 1982. Steve is single and enjoys all outdoor activities including skiing, mountain climbing, backpacking, fishing and hunting.

NEW DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR SEMINAR

The New Director/Coordinator's Seminar is scheduled for June 7-9 in Helena. We will start Monday, the 7th, at 8:30 a.m., and hope to wrap up by noon on the 9th.

This is an excellent opportunity for you new coordinators and assistant coordinators to receive a comprehensive look at your role and responsibilities as a county coordinator.

If you are contemplating attending, notify your District Field Representative as soon as possible.

NEW POSITIONS

State DES recently received authorization from FEMA, Region VIII, to hire a full-time Radiological Defense Officer. Funds to support this new program, to include salary, travel, office equipment, and all other miscellaneous expenses are 100% Federally funded. It is anticipated this position will be filled in the immediate future.

State DES also anticipates the employment of a Shelter Survey Analyst in the near future. This position will also be 100% Federally funded to include related expenses to the position. The individual employed for this position will be responsible to analyze structures throughout the State to determine their suitability as potential fallout and/or congregate care shelters in the event of a nuclear disaster.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

In a 1981 study, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has drawn attention to the increasing number of railroad/highway grade crossing accidents involving trucks transporting bulk hazardous materials. Although most of the NTSB's recommendations for improvement are aimed at federal and state levels, local DES Coordinators should be aware that most such accidents occur at railroad crossings near bulk storage facilities, especially those used for petroleum distribution. Ask yourself: Where are such crossings located in my county? Have my plans addressed questions of evacuation, access for fire fighters and rescue operations, etc.

SWAP SHOP

John Jackman, Mineral County DES (home: 822-4338, office: 822-4233), has two 1/4-to- ambulance jeeps (stretched universal type) that the county no longer needs. These jeeps are about two feet longer than normal jeeps. Both run and are painted red. In turn, John is looking for a 1 1/2-ton (1-ton might work) truck for conversion to a small pumper.

Jefferson County needs an antenna (frequency 39.82) and lead-in coaxial cable. Small charge negotiable. Contact Gene Lynch, DES Coordinator, 315 South Cook, Box 567, Boulder, Montana 59632; phone: 225-3300 or leave a message at 225-4240.

Big Horn County has a 1968 Pontiac Ambulance (conventional, not stand up) in Hardin that needs some motor work but is not too bad. It is EXCESS property so it could be transferred. Contact Craig Taft for information.

A NEW TAPE

The State Office is currently working on a tape presentation on Nuclear Civil Protection. This tape will differ from previous films or audio visual tapes in that it will be geared specifically to Montana. The intended use for this tape is for you, county coordinators, to be able to present it at your public speaking engagements. After showing the tape, you can further orient it to your county by a question and answer period.

NUCLEAR EFFECTS ON THE OZONE LAYER

Recently there has been much concern about the effects nuclear detonations would have on the ozone layer. If the ozone layer, which is in the stratosphere, were depleted, increased amounts of ultraviolet radiation would reach the earth and there could be an increased incidence of skin cancer as well as a variety of potentially dangerous ecological effects. Since the report by the National Academy of Sciences in 1975 estimated a 30% to 70% reduction in the ozone layer, there have been two changes which bear on the question of the degree of risk of ozone depletion:

1. Further research into the chemistry of the upper atmosphere has modified the model calculations used in 1975. The state of knowledge as of 1979, is roughly this: nuclear detonations could deplete the ozone layer if they occur at very high altitude (80,000 feet, or 15 miles and upward); were results of high yield explosions (i.e., substantially more than one megaton) and in large numbers (1,000 or more). Otherwise, ozone depletion is not likely.[1]

2. The development of MIRV's (missiles with more than one warhead) has reduced the number of high yield warheads in the arsenals of the super powers, as they are replaced by multiple warheads of lower yield.

It is also interesting to note that in the 1961-1962 period both the U.S. and the Soviet Union tested atomic devices in the atmosphere. The yield was in excess of 300 megatons. A world-wide network of stations, which since 1960 has published daily ozone concentrations, detected no evidence of an ozone decrease during the months following the test explosions.[2]

These changes cast serious doubt on the likelihood of serious ozone depletions as a consequence of nuclear war.

1The Effects of Nuclear War, Office of Technology Assessment for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

2Research Report on Recovery From Nuclear Attack, DCPA Bulletin No. 307.

MONTANA FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT

Many communities within Montana are participating in the National Flood Insurance Program

NEWSLETTER

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DISASTER & EMERGENCY
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and the State Floodplain Management Program. The programs emphasize regulation of development in the floodplains of our waterways.

If your county or a community within your county is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, the local floodplain administrator can help you in your efforts to plan and prepare for flood disasters. The floodplain administrator has on file maps identifying flood hazard areas. With average or above average snowpack in most areas of Montana this year, the local DES coordinator should contact their floodplain administrator and find out where these high hazard areas are located since they might find this information invaluable if flooding actually occurs.

Contact the floodplain administrator in your county or the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Floodplain Management Section (449-2864) and work together in preparation for a flood disaster.

FIRST CLASS